

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 07679 261504Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 PA-02 SAB-02 L-03 /029 W  
-----014859 270632Z /13

R 261445Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4256  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 7679

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.-- TREAY-RELATED NEWS SHARPLY DOWN IN NEWS PAGES OF OCT. 26 PRESS. SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA CARRIES FRONT-PAGE ITEM ON LATEST PLEBISCITE RESULTS WITH HEAD, "UPON APPROVAL OF TREATIES IN PANAMA, IT REMAINS ONLY FOR CARTER TO ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVE IN US." SISTER ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD CARRIES ANNE ZUSY AP STORY, "PLEBISCITE PLEASES TORRIJOS, OPPONENTS." PRO-GOP MATUTINO HAS PAGE ONE PRENSA LATINA STORY FROM LIMA, "PANAMANIAN PLEBISCITE CAUSES FAVORABLE REACTION IN WORLD PRESS." PRO-GOP GRICICA CARRIES FRONT PAGE BOX WITH LATEST VOTING RESULTS, BUT NO STORY. OCT. 25 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA HAS PAGE ONE EFE ITEM, "THE SENATE NOW HAS THE FLOOR."

2. MATUTINO EDIT COMMENTS ON SURPRISE OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS  
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AS TO SERIOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY WITH WHICH PANAMANIANs TOOK PLEBISCITE. MATUTINO ANALYZES VOTES, "WITH YES VOTE, SHIP OF STATE IS CARRIED ON PATH OF IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM ACHIEVEMENTS... WITH NO VOTE, VOTER DEMONSTRATED REJECTION OF THIS TREATY AND ADDS CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF HIS IMPATIENCE WHICH WOULD NOT LET HIM WAIT 23 YEARS TO SEE ASPIRATIONS ACCOMPLISHED..."

3. EDIT CONCLUDES, "NOW THIS TREATY... IS AT A SINGLE STEP FROM BEING CONVERTED INTO A POSITIVE REALITY OR THE GREATEST MOTIVE OF DISHARMONY. AND THIS STEP OF SUCH HIGH IMPORTANCE BELONGS TO US SENATE. TO THIS ORGANIZATION BELONGS THE CHALLENGE. BECAUSE IN ITS HANDS ALONE IS THE ANSWER WHICH CAN BE EITHER SOLUTION OR CONFLICT."

4. ESTRELLA EDIT ANALYSES REASONS WHY PANAMANIAN VOTED YES ON TREATIES, CENTERING PRIMARILY ON IDEA THAT TIME HAS COME TO END INTOLERABLE SITUATION. "GOOD SENSE OF PANAMANIAN PEOPLE... MADE ITSELF EVIDENT IN PLEBISCITE, WHOSE RESULTS COULD NOT BE MORE EXPRESSIVE AND ELOCUENT. THUS WE HAD HOPED AND THUS IT WAS. WE TRUST THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE US AND THE SENATE WILL UNDERSTAND CLEARLY WHAT THAR RESULT SIGNIFIES." ITEM GONZALEZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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